

The FCC gives the appearance to me and to others of being more favorable to business interests than to the public interest. The reason for having the FCC is to protect the public interest. Media conglomerates, as well as smaller media companies, make millions of dollars each year using the public airwaves. They are granted monopoly use of the public airwaves in return for a certain amount public service. Lately, it seems that public service in return for this monopoly use of the public airwaves is not getting much effort. Media companies appear to be treating the public airwaves as their private property.

We now get news bites instead of real news. Candidates for public office and their positions on important issues get superficial treatment. We cannot find out what their views are. Sensationalism seems to rule-if it bleeds it leads seems to be the ruling policy for many news programs. Opposing points of view do not get the attention they deserve. How is a democracy supposed to function in a healthy way under these conditions?

During times when children are viewing television there are programs with lots of sex and violence. There are complaints from parents that their concerns are being ignored by the FCC.

I think more complete public discussion is necessary before any changes are made in media rules. The public needs to know all the facts and all of the proposed changes, and have meaningful opportunities to respond, before any decisions are made. Let us keep and enforce the present rules until there has been a proper public discussion, with full public availability of and access to the information on this issue. If you consider rule changes necessary, publish the proposed changes with supporting reasons, including the full information used by you to reach your conclusions, then let the public and our elected representatives consider, discuss, and render opinions before any decision is made to put the changes into effect.